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1934

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1933

BY

E. J. TUDOR,

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, &c.

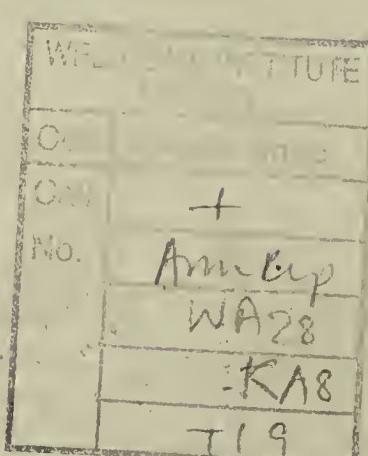
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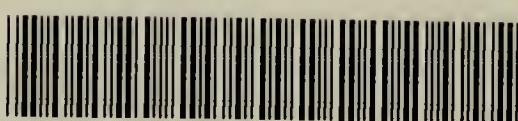
TASMANIA

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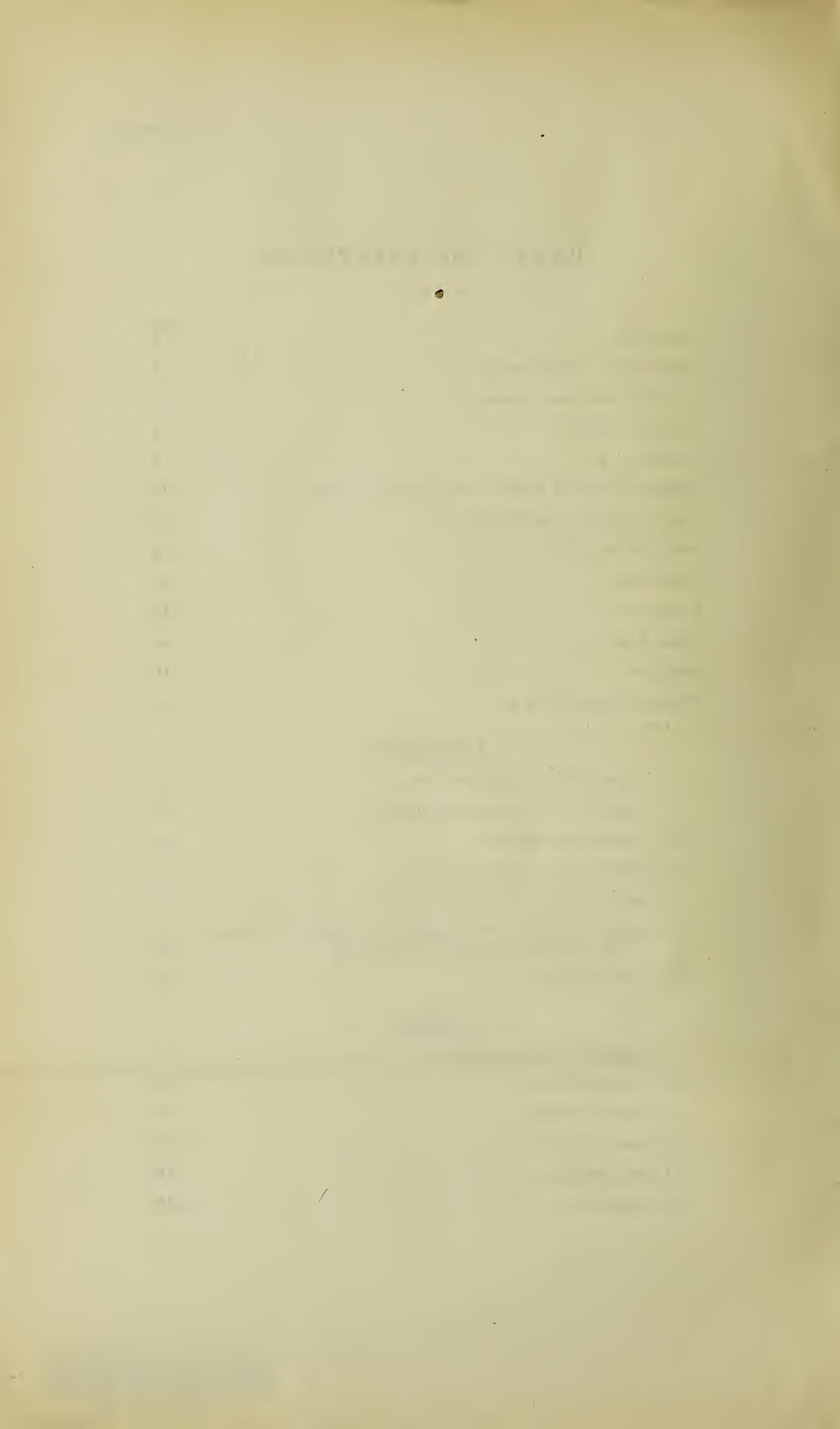
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SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1933

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 1st May, 1934.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended the 31st December, 1933.

The Sixth Session of the Federal Health Council of Australia was held at Canberra from the 21st to the 23rd February. During the course of the discussions of the Council, there was a valuable interchange of experience relating to many other phases of public health activity, without the adoption of formal resolutions or recommendations.

The dissemination of popular health instruction by means of broadcasting was continued throughout the year, with satisfactory results.

Practical demonstrations on meat inspection to local health inspectors, which were inaugurated in the previous year, were extended to the early months of the year 1933. At the request of many interested persons, these demonstrations will be resumed during the forthcoming year.

With the object of adding to the attractiveness of the State as a tourist resort, the sanitation of hotels has received particular attention. The installation of bacteriolytic tanks in hotels located in many places frequented by tourists has been an outstanding feature.

Towards the end of the year, the Department received an application for permission to erect a crematory in a burial-ground at Hobart. Before giving the matter final consideration, it was deemed essential to frame regulations under the Cremation Act, 1905. This work has been accomplished, and the regulations were duly submitted for the approval of the Crown Law Department. As a public health authority, the Department views with much satisfaction this definite proposal to establish a crematory in the State. The modern development of cremation that is taking place throughout the civilised world reflects the changing conditions of life, as well as the changing attitude towards death, and, if this great and sanitary reform is to be guided in the right way, not only with regard to essentials, but in the development of its æsthetic, religious, and idealistic possibilities, the movement must claim the widest support of the public.

Offensive trades regulations, which were disallowed by the Legislative Council in December, 1931, on the ground that they constituted unnecessary and harassing restrictions on important sections of the business community, were subsequently modified in some directions and approved by the Governor-in-Council during September.

The Fourth Annual Cancer Conference was held at Canberra from the 1st to the 3rd March, 1933. Delegates were in attendance from this State.

LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

With the exception of the Cities of Hobart and Launceston, which have properly constituted staffs to deal with public health work, regular supervision has been exercised throughout the State by departmental officers. The performance of this function serves a dual purpose, in that it stimulates local effort and affords officers of municipal councils the opportunity of discussing with the trained officers of this Department various public health problems which arise from time to time in their districts.

A comparison of the sanitary condition of the State at the present time with that which existed a decade ago, shows a definite improvement in certain fundamental points. In the main this has been brought about by the education of the people, and a closer application by local authorities to the obligations devolving upon them under the Public Health Act and kindred laws. More effectual work, however, remains to be accomplished, particularly in the direction of combating infectious diseases in districts where officers' duties are not confined solely to health work. It should be realised that recognised measures towards the prevention and control of infectious diseases must be applied with the least possible delay if the people are to be afforded the protection to which they are entitled by those responsible for safeguarding their welfare in the field of preventive medicine.

The Devonport Municipal Council is to be commended for its attention to the question of establishing a municipal abattoir within the district. The structure, when provided, will constitute the only possible means of proper and systematic inspection at the time of slaughter, such inspection being necessary to secure the humane slaughter of animals and to prevent the sale for human food of diseased meat. The concentration of all slaughtering at this abattoir should eliminate the private slaughter-houses in the district. As to the latter, their number, their distances apart, and the varying times at which slaughtering takes place combine to make it quite impossible for an official to make those inspections prior to slaughter, at the time of slaughter, and immediately afterwards, which alone suffice to detect most of those diseases which render flesh unwholesome as food.

The erection and maintenance of well-controlled and modern public slaughter-houses to serve other centres, which up to the present have not made any provision of this nature, is one of the important needs of the State, and, until this reform is accomplished, we shall never have a satisfactory solution of the meat problem.

Particulars of inspections made by officers of this Department are contained in Appendix I.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table A (page 7) shows the number of cases of each of these diseases reported from municipal districts under Section 31 of the Public Health Act, 1903. The total notifications for the previous year are also given.

Diphtheria.—Seven hundred and six cases were notified, an increase of 251 compared with the year 1932. There were 16 deaths. The disease assumed epidemic form in several districts located on the North-West Coast, viz., Burnie, Deloraine, Kentish, Table Cape, and Westbury, a total of 264 cases being reported from these municipalities. An epidemic also occurred in the Ringarooma district, situated on the North-East Coast.

An important discussion on diphtheria took place at the last session of the Federal Health Council, and the following resolution was adopted:—

"Resolution 1.—Diphtheria.—(I.) Great advance has been made in the knowledge of diphtheria, and antitoxin provides a reliable method of treatment of persons attacked by this disease, while the great improvements in general hygiene have undoubtedly improved the position in respect of diphtheria as well as of other diseases. Notwithstanding this improvement, diphtheria as a community disease is still one of the principal public health problems and attacks yearly in Australia a large number of children. It is increasingly clear that the co-operation of the whole community is essential to the control of this disease.

(II.) Immunization against diphtheria, when carried out under suitable conditions and with efficient prophylactics, effects a large reduction in the diphtheria mortality and morbidity rates among children thus treated. This is proved by studies carried out under strictly comparable conditions, such as those observed during the recent inquiries.

(III.) Immunization performed under proper conditions is safe as well as effective.

(IV.) Diphtheria is specially a disease attacking children during the pre-school period and in the first years of school life. It is therefore recommended that immunization against diphtheria should be carried out not later than during the pre-school period, after the end of the first year of life.

If the children have not been immunized during the pre-school period, they should be immunized, if possible, during the first year of school attendance.

(V.) If every child of susceptible ages could be immunized as early as possible, it may be assumed that diphtheria would cease to exist as a serious disease in the community.

Certain practical difficulties have, however, to be recognized as administrative factors so that it is improbable that immunization will be adopted throughout the whole community for a long period.

Much can be done, however, in infected families, in schools, hospitals, and other institutions; and this Council considers it very desirable that local health authorities should, in their own districts, institute and continue systematic immunization of children

now at susceptible ages and year by year of other children as they reach these ages.

The co-operation of the medical profession is desirable so that the practice of immunization of private patients should be steadily encouraged.

In these ways the education of the public will progress until a near approach is made to a stage of sufficient immunization in those districts or sections of the population where diphtheria is especially liable to occur."

That portion of the resolution dealing with immunization was submitted for the information of local health authorities, and councils were asked if they were prepared to give consideration to the initiation of a scheme of immunization against the disease. Many favourable replies were received, and it is hoped that at no distant date the importance of this most valuable contribution to modern preventive medicine, as a means of preventing and finally eradicating the ravages of diphtheria, will receive the sympathetic consideration and support of the people.

Scarlet Fever.—Notifications totalled 370. There were four deaths. The disease was most prevalent in the cities of Hobart (96 cases) and Launceston (59 cases).

Typhoid Fever.—Thirty-seven cases were notified. There were four deaths. The Department investigated the incidence of the disease in some of the country districts in an endeavour to trace the source of infection. In one instance the probable cause was the domestic water-supply, which was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Tuberculosis (All Forms).—The notifications under this heading totalled 188, an increase of 21 over the previous year. One hundred and seventy-nine were reported to be suffering from pulmonary and nine from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following particulars are furnished with respect to patients treated at the Tasmanian Sanatorium during the year:—

Bed Accommodation.

Bed accommodation for 71 patients (39 male and 32 female).

Patients Treated.

	Male.	Female.
Remaining in on 1.1.33	22	30
Admitted during year	55	60
	—	—
	77	90
	—	—

Discharged—

	Male.	Female.
Much improved	13	14
Improved	18	26
Stationary	11	10
Worse	1	1
	—	43
Died	—	10
Remaining in on 31.12.33	24	29
	—	—
	77	90
	—	—

Puerperal Fever.—The notifications under this heading totalled 14. An outbreak of this disease occurred at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Launceston. The Medical Officer of Health of that City advised that there was gross carelessness in not reporting several of the cases in accordance with the requirements of the law, which led to

an extension of the outbreak. Legal proceedings were instituted against the medical practitioner concerned, whilst the hospital was closed against

the reception of patients for a definite period. Steps were taken to safeguard the position in the future.

TABLE A.

Return Showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease Reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year, 1933, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1932 and 1933.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (all forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Total 1933.	Total 1932.
1 Beaconsfield	1	...	3	12	1	...	7	9
2 Bothwell	4	...	1	1	...	...	6	6
3 Brighton	1	...	10	...	...	...	11	7
4 Bruny	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
5 Burnie	34	...	8	2	...	...	44	16
6 Campbell Town .....	...	1	3	1	...	...	5	9
7 Circular Head	7	...	2	...	...	...	9	14
8 Clarence	8	1	1	1	...	...	11	22
9 Deloraine	37	...	8	2	...	...	47	10
10 Devonport	10	...	...	7	...	...	17	19
11 Esperance	9	...	15	1	...	...	25	80
12 Evandale	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	1
13 Fingal	1	4	1	3	...	...	9	10
14 Flinders	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
15 George Town	3	...	6	...	...	...	9	1
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Glenorchy	79	2	30	11	...	...	122	85
18 Gormanston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Green Ponds	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	6
20 Hamilton	3	1	8	1	...	...	13	28
21 Hobart	152	6	96	60	1	...	315	375
22 Huon	18	1	2	1	...	...	22	22
23 Kentish	83	...	10	2	...	1	96	11
24 Kingborough	8	...	7	2	...	...	17	37
25 King Island	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	17
26 Latrobe	13	...	...	2	...	...	15	11
27 Launceston	28	2	59	46	8	2	145	80
28 Leven	3	1	15	2	...	...	21	37
29 Lilydale	2	...	4	2	...	...	8	3
30 Longford	4	...	7	...	...	1	12	7
31 New Norfolk	16	5	14	4	1	...	40	54
32 Oatlands	5	1	...	3	...	...	9	9
33 Penguin	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
34 Port Cygnet	2	...	5	3	...	...	10	25
35 Portland .....	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	4
36 Queenstown .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2
37 Richmond	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
38 Ringarooma	41	4	2	4	...	...	51	8
39 Ross	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
40 Scottsdale	8	2	20	...	1	...	31	5
41 Sorell	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
42 Spring Bay	1	...	8	...	1	...	10	...
43 St. Leonards	5	...	6	3	...	...	14	7
44 Strahan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 Table Cape	91	...	2	5	...	...	98	15
46 Tasman .....	...	1	...	3	...	...	14	3
47 Waratah	1	...	1	2	...	...	4	...
48 Westbury	19	1	3	3	1	...	27	2
49 Zeehan .....	...	...	11	2	...	...	13	3
50 Overseas .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	3
TOTAL CASES.....	706	37	370	188	14	5	1320	1079

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The cases notified during the year numbered 274, comprising 195 males and 79 females. Approximately 38 per cent. of the cases were reported from public hospitals at which clinics are established for treatment. In only two instances were statutory declarations made as to the source of infection. Orders requiring these individuals to seek medical treatment were complied with.

In accordance with existing practice, various preparations for the treatment of persons suffering from these diseases were supplied free of charge to public hospitals by the Department.

After an experience of several years in the administration of those provisions of the Public Health Act dealing with venereal diseases, I am of the opinion that in some directions more drastic legislation is needed to aid the development of control measures. It is felt that, apart from actual treatment, the continued observation of certain individuals is essential to prevent the spread of the disease. Statutory authority to enforce this requirement, if necessary by detention in an appropriate institution, should be the means of minimising the risk of infection from this source.

Statistical information for the year in respect of these diseases is appended (Tables B.-D.).

TABLE B.
RETURN showing Sex and Age Distribution and Location (Metropolitan or Extra-Metropolitan) of Cases of Venereal Disease Reported to the
Public Health Department for the Year, 1933.

	Under 1 year.		1-5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-20.		20-25.		25-30.		30-35.		35-40.		40-45.		45-50.		50-55.		55-60.		60-65.		65-70 and over.		Age not stated.		Total.		Grand Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Gonorrhœa—																																				
Metropolitan	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	12	12	4	4	6	6	16	16	7	18	18	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gleet—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Secondary—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Soft Chancre—																																				
Metropolitan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa & Syphilis—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa & Chancre—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa & Chancre—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa & Ophthalmia—																																				
Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona-																																				
tum—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Extra-Metropolitan		
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				

Details Regarding Source of Notifications.

Males.	Females.	Total.
Notified by Hospital Clinics.....	63	41
Notified by Private Doctors	132	38
	195	79

TABLE C.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1933.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhœa	47	119	18	18	65	137	202
Gleet	3	...	...	...	3	...	3
Syphilis	14	11	29	13	43	24	67
Gonnorrhœa and Chancre .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Gonorrhœa and Syphilis	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total.....	65	130	47	32	112	162	274

TABLE D.
RETURN showing Number of Cases of Venereal Disease reported to Department of Public Health during Each Year since the Inception of the Act in 1918.

Year.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
No. of Cases	366	488	419	473	357	384	516	460	413	376	390	386	324	242	229	274

HOSPITALS ACT.

Public Hospitals.—Most of the public hospitals were visited during the year for the purpose of investigating requests for additional financial assistance, either towards maintenance costs or

for extensions to or upkeep of buildings. The reduction in the Government subsidy, which took effect from the year 1930-31, has made it increasingly difficult for hospital boards to keep free from debt, and in some cases additional assistance has had to be made available to relieve those concerned of financial embarrassment.

The infectious diseases block at the Devon Public Hospital is a very old building, and falls far short of modern requirements. The importance of placing this unit of the hospital on a reasonably satisfactory footing, from the viewpoint of administration and in the interests of patients, was brought to the notice of the Minister, who provided the requisite subsidy for the purpose.

The provision of an infectious diseases block at the Spencer Public Hospital, Wynyard, is also an urgent necessity, on the grounds of economy and in the interests of the public health. Under existing conditions, cases of infectious disease which occur in the Municipalities of Circular Head, Table Cape, and Burnie are transported to the Devon Public Hospital for treatment. Apart from the fact that it is not in the best interests of sick persons, principally children, to be transported over such long distances, it is unsound economically to pay excessive charges for the conveyance of such cases to Latrobe. On the occasion of a visit to Wynyard, I investigated the matter of making some provision for an infectious diseases unit at the Spencer Public Hospital, and, in conjunction with the Hospital Board, selected a site suitable for the location of an infectious diseases block, which, when erected, will also save expense in providing additional accommodation at the Devon Public Hospital, the need for which was emphasized during epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever on the North-West Coast.

A special grant was made available to the Launceston Public Hospital to meet the cost of equipment needed for the treatment of venereal diseases.

Special grants have also been provided at other public hospitals for repairs and maintenance of buildings. The allocation of a sum of money yearly for this purpose is an economic measure, in that hospital buildings are always kept in a reasonable state of repair.

Private Hospitals.—Private hospitals have been inspected at regular intervals throughout the year, and, where necessary, action taken to enforce compliance with requirements. Owing to the existing law on the subject being somewhat indefinite, it was deemed essential to frame a regulation to enable the Department to proceed in any case where more patients than the licence prescribed were being accommodated. The manager of one private hospital, who, on more than one occasion during recent years, has been extended leniency for committing offences in this direction, was subsequently fined Ten Pounds for a further breach of the law. Through unavoidable circumstances, it happens sometimes that slight overlapping of cases will arise, to which no exception is taken if a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming. The Department, however, will not condone any flagrant breach of the law in this regard.

Table E contains particulars of private hospital licences issued during the year.

TABLE E.
RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued
during the Year 1933.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	9	1	2	6
Launceston	9	...	2	7
Country	52	13	1	38
	70	14	5	51

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE AND
INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The extension of maternal and child welfare work since its inception in 1918 will be apparent from the following comparative statistics for the years 1918-19 and 1933:—

	1918-19.	1933.
Visits of mothers and babies to clinics	1,484	29,097
Visits of nurses to homes	1,120	11,745

The progress made demonstrates well-merited recognition of the work undertaken by the members of voluntary organisations, who through the years have laid the foundations of a service which must have an abiding effect for good on the charities that come within the scope of its timely and appreciable help.

Table showing the work performed during the year by officers of the Child Welfare Association, Hobart, and Baby Health Association, Launceston, are contained in Appendix III. Reference to the child welfare work carried out by bush nurses is contained under the heading of "Bush Nursing."

The infantile mortality rate (deaths per thousand births) for the year was 41·1, the lowest on record. It is submitted that the downward tendency in the infantile mortality rate during recent years is due not so much to climatic change or sanitary environment as to the quickening of the public conscience upon the subject, a quickening which has expressed itself in wider knowledge of child life, mainly through the activities of the child welfare associations.

Tables, F.-I., containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE F.

INFANTILE Mortality.

Number of Deaths under One Year in Tasmania for the last 20 Calendar Years.

	Year.																			
	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Deaths.....	431	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births.)

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	North T'tory.	Federal Cap. Ter.	Co'mon-wealth.
1923.....	57·6	60·7	65·7	54·0	60·3	56·0	43·8	...	...	60·5
1924.....	55·0	58·9	61·3	51·2	51·3	49·9	40·2	...	...	57·0
1925.....	55·0	55·0	57·0	45·2	46·1	56·6	40·0	...	...	53·4
1926.....	46·5	57·6	55·7	50·7	44·3	49·3	39·8	...	...	54·0
1927	53·0	54·9	56·1	54·5	53·4	45·9	38·7	...	...	54·5
1928.....	63·9	54·9	55·6	45·5	47·5	48·1	36·2	60·2	116·7	53·0
1929.....	53·1	56·6	47·2	46·1	40·9	56·2	34·1	18·9	19·6	51·1
1930.....	50·6	49·8	46·5	40·2	48·3	46·7	34·5	70·4	24·4	47·2
1931.....	46·0	43·5	44·5	36·6	36·5	41·5	32·2	83·3	37·3	42·1
1932.....	41·2	41·1	43·0	40·3	36·6	44·6	31·2	n	n	n
1933.....	41·1	39·3	40·4	42·6	31·9	36·8	31·6	94·6	53·4	39·5

TABLE G.

TASMANIA.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1924 to 1933.

Causes of Deaths.		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
7. Measles	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough	9	23	1	...	19	11	3	8	3	4	4
10. Diphtheria and Croup	2	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases	2	1	1	2	...	2	...	1	1	1	1
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24. Tubercular Meningitis .....	...	1	2	...	2	1	1	2	1	1	...
34. Syphilis	6	3	1	...	3	2	1	1	1	1	...
86. Convulsions	9	7	5	7	4	1	2	3	3	2	2
106. Bronchitis	5	3	1	5	5	1	3	1	2	...	...
107. Broncho-pneumonia	19	15	5	11	15	12	4	13	20	18	18
108, 109. Pneumonia	24	20	13	14	24	27	12	8	4	3	3
118. Other Diseases of the Stomach	1	1	...	3	1	2	1	1	1	...	...
119. Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	16	29	30	31	37	21	23	12	8	9	9
157. Congenital Defects	28	20	19	17	17	31	28	23	14	24	24
159, 160. Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	{ 97	89	91	101	101	72	100	86	69	73	73
158. Debility, Marasmus.....	{ 47	37	29	26	34	30	25	16	20	13	13
161. Diseases of Early Infancy	8	8	13	22	14	17	20	14	20	20	20
Other Causes	22	29	20	16	20	25	18	30	18	19	19
Total	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	187
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	55·0	55·0	46·5	53·0	63·9	53·1	50·6	46·0	41·2	41·1	41·1
Total Births	5383	5218	4988	4833	4691	4797	4785	4762	4491	4553	4553

TABLE H.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under 1 year—1933.)

Causes of Death.	Under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.	Total.
Whooping Cough .....	...	1	3	...	4
Erysipelas .....	...	...	1	...	1
Tetanus	1	...	...	...	1
Diabetes Mellitus .....	...	...	1	...	1
Anæmia, not Pernicious.....	...	...	...	1	1
Aleukaemia .....	...	...	1	...	1
Simple Meningitis .....	...	1	...	1	2
Other Diseases of the Spinal Chord	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions .....	...	...	2	...	2
Other Diseases of the Nervous System .....	...	1	...	...	1
Diseases of the Lymphatic System	1	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	5	2	6	5	18
Pneumonia	1	1	...	1	3
Congestion, Oedema, &c., of the Lung	i	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	...	1	3	5	9
Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	...	...	1	1
Peritonitis .....	...	1	...	...	1
Acute Nephritis .....	...	1	...	1	2
Other Diseases of the Intestines .....	...	...	1	...	1
Diseases of the Skin	1	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations...	18	4	1	1	24
Congenital Debility	7	6	...	...	13
Premature Birth.....	58	3	1	...	62
Injury at Birth	11	...	...	...	11
Atelectasis	7	1	...	...	8
Icterus Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	1
Diseases of Umbilicus	1	...	...	...	1
Sclerema and other Diseases of Early Infancy.....	10	...	...	...	10
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation.....	1	...	...	1	2
Accidental Drowning .....	...	...	...	1	1
Ill-defined causes.....	1	...	...	...	1
Total	126	23	20	18	187

TABLE I.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Deaths under One Year during 1929-1933.

Causes of Death.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Whooping Cough	11	3	8	3	4
Convulsions.....	1	2	3	3	3
Bronchitis	1	3	1	2	...
Broncho-pneumonia	12	4	13	20	18
Pneumonia	27	12	8	4	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	21	23	12	8	9
Congenital Debility	30	25	16	20	13
Syphilis	2	1	1	1	...
Malformations	31	28	23	14	24
Prematurity and Injury at Birth	72	100	86	69	73
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	17	20	14	20	20

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT.

Buildings which come within the purview of this law have been inspected from time to time by officers of the Department, and steps taken where necessary to enforce compliance with the requirements of the Act. In one instance an

order was made, cancelling the licence in force under the Act, for the reason that the continued use of the building as a place of public entertainment would have been prejudicial to the public health.

The regulation in force dealing with seating accommodation was amended on the 16th October to read as follows:—

“(b) A clear space shall be left between the outside or front part of every seat and the nearest part of any seat in front thereof; the said clear space shall not be less than 11 inches, measured horizontally in a straight line from the outside or front part of each seat to a perpendicular line extending upward or downward from the nearest part of any seat in front thereof.”

This regulation is being strictly enforced.

I regret to record that it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against certain individuals having the superintendence or management of public entertainments for allowing persons to sit in gangways in the auditorium. An offence of this nature is viewed in a serious light, for the reason that it is a distinct menace to public safety.

Film Censorship.—There has been no change in the personnel of the Picture Censor Board, the existing members being reappointed in November for a further term. The Board met at weekly intervals during the year for the purpose of dealing with applications for the registration of films. Applications in respect of 440 films were considered and dealt with as follows:—

430 were registered unconditionally.

6 were registered, subject to the excision of certain features.

2 were refused registration.

2 were registered, subject to the condition that all advertisements contained a statement to the effect that the films were not suitable for exhibition to nervous children.

In the consideration of these applications, the Board viewed private screenings of 44 films.

I wish to place on record the keen interest taken by the Board in the performance of its functions. Members act in an honorary capacity, and devote much of their time to the work involved.

Cinematograph Operators.—Seventy-six of these licences (68 full and 8 provisional) were issued during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The administration of this law has received close attention during the year. More effectual work, however, could be accomplished if an increased staff were available. The present position is that inspectorial duties under the law are carried out by officers in conjunction with their other work, whilst, if special officers were available, a more thorough application of measures against food contamination and adulteration could be made.

Amendment of Regulations.—Regulations numbers 44, 72, 79, and 106 were amended in certain directions during the course of the year.

Labelling.—Advice as to the labelling requirements of the law was tendered to the manufacturers of various foods and drugs.

Butter.—With the object of protecting the retailer against prosecution for selling butter below standard, the Solicitor-General was asked if wrapped butter could be regarded as a closed

package within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, in order to enable the Department to take action against the manufacturer or packer thereof, instead of the retailer. In view of the advice received that such butter could be regarded as a closed package, the suggestion was made that the problem might be solved by the Agricultural Department making provision under the Dairy Produce Act for the wrapping of butter at the place of manufacture or by the importer. This would also safeguard the article against contamination through exposure to dust and by other means at the shop of the retailer.

Spiritous Liquors.—Officers made many tests of spiritous liquors sold at hotels and public-houses, and, as the result of this work, several samples were taken for analytical examination. Many of these samples failed to reach the standard for strength, and prosecutions are pending against those concerned.

Mutton-Bird Industry.—An officer of the Department exercised supervision over the mutton-bird season of 1933 at the Furneaux Group of islands. In his report the officer recommended that future seasons should be opened a week later, in order to enable the birds to be placed on the market in a more wholesome and cleanly condition. It had been observed during the first week of the past few seasons that the plucking of the young birds was not satisfactory, owing to the presence of the pin feathers.

Offences.—Twelve prosecutions were instituted with success against retailers for selling

food not in accordance with prescribed standards. The fines imposed and costs received totalled £39 14s. 6d.

Food Sampling and Inspections.—Detailed information as to the work carried out by officers under this heading is contained in Appendix I.

BUSH NURSING.

The Bush Nursing Scheme administered by the Department on behalf of the Tasmanian Bush Nursing Association has continued to serve a most useful purpose in those districts throughout the State where centres have been established. A record of the work carried out by each nurse will be found in Table K, subjoined.

The Department, through its Supervisory Nurse, has kept in close touch with the activities of each centre, and has done its utmost to foster bush nursing work.

At the annual meeting of the State Council of the Tasmanian Bush Nursing Association, held in October last, consideration was given to the framing of a new constitution, which, when in operation, should facilitate the administration of the scheme.

The State Council also agreed to increase the salary of a bush nurse from £150 to £160 per annum, whilst the salary of a relieving nurse was fixed at the rate of £180 per annum. The Association agreed to contribute the amount of the increase to each centre where a nurse is employed.

TABLE J.

BUSH NURSING.—Summary of Work Performed during the Year ended 31st December, 1933.

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Child Welfare.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees Earned.	Number of Hospital Beds.
Adamsfield	473	293	31	...	143	...	535	£ 8 2 6	2
Avoca	76	479	18	2	154	8	993	57 17 0	...
Bruny Island...	3	34	112	10	60	8	769	34 10 9	2
Burnie.....	1	203	232	11	1985	4	1569	87 1 6	...
Cygnet	41	196	79	10	481	15	1789	48 6 6	...
Flinders Island	84	60	95	7	46	7	1434	52 16 4	...
Lilydale	180	692	22	9	107	23	3772	143 14 11	...
Marrawah	510	353	66	2	306	9	2353	96 2 3	2
Ouse	95	57	159	14	29	9	516	85 13 3	1
Rosebery	982	730	10	3	107	5	1849	...	2
Southport	44	98	109	12	82	36	1060	53 8 9	...
Spring Bay* ...	55	300	18	4	190	7	1771	30 19 6	...
Swansea	462	496	...	11	552	...	660	97 14 2	...
Tasman	95	156	172	17	199	3	5626	107 6 7	4
Tullah*	107	88	5	2	20	...	234	...	2
Ulverstone .....	...	435	41	35	1092	18	3923	90 7 0	...
Waratah	342	561	1	25	6	...	1210	54 13 6	...
Total....	3550	5231	1170	174	5559	152	30,063	...	...

* Spring Bay closed in October.

† Tullah closed in January.

Inspection.—Each registered factory is inspected at least once yearly, with the object of ascertaining if the requirements of the law are being complied with. Arising out of these inspections, thirty requisitions were served upon occupiers of factories to carry out various works. These requisitions were complied with.

Offences.—The occupier of a factory was prosecuted for failing to keep all passageways and stairways clear and free from obstruction, as required by Section 31 of the Act. The penalty imposed amounted to £2 8s.

Statistics.—A table containing statistical data with respect to factories registered by the Department during the year 1933 is subjoined.

Registration of Factories.—The number of factories registered with the Department at the close of the year was 1203, an increase of 23 over the preceding year. The fees received from this source amounted to £426 9s. 6d.

Employees in Factories.—Persons numbering 8805 (6670 males and 2135 females) were employed in registered factories, compared with 8597 persons (6472 males and 2125 females) during the preceding year.

Horsepower of Machinery Used in Factories.—Machinery used in the various factories throughout the State equalled 79,521 horsepower.

TABLE K.

Compiled from Applications for Registration of Factories Received from 1st January, 1933, to 31st December, 1933, and Showing Tasmanian Factories in Analysed Sections, Together with the Number of Employees, their Ages and Hours of Work.

Class of Factory.	No. of Factories	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	Ages (Male Employees).						Ages (Female Employees).						Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week.		
			14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.			
SECTION 1.—Treating Raw Material.																			
1. Abattoirs	3	...				1												28 ... 40-48	
2. Tanneries	3	2			1						6	3	7	3	33			53 ... 48	
3. Wool-scouring, &c.	7	...																36 ... 48	
4. Bark Mills	3	1																23 ... 48	
5. Fur-dressing	1	1				2		1	1	2	7				4	2	13 6	48	
Total.....	17	4		1	2	7	4	8	7	124					4	2	153 6	...	
SECTION 2.—Oils and Fats.																			
6. Soap, candles, acid, and soda	1	...			1						1	1	15	...		1	3	18 4	48
SECTION 3.—Processes in Stone, Clay, &c.																			
7. Bricks, Tiles, Concrete Pipes, and Pottery.....	14	3	1	2	4	4	4	4	1	134	...						154 ... 48		
9. Stone-crushing.....	6	2	...		...	1	...	...	...	35	...						35 ... 48
10. Stone-dressing	2	2	...		...	...	...	...	...	3	...						4 ... 44
Total	22	7	1	2	4	5	4	4	1	172	...						193 ...		
SECTION 4.—Working in Wood.																			
11. Joiners and Builders	47	30	1	4	6	7	3	14	4	118	...						157 ... 44		
12. Sawmills	170	107	2	4	7	15	15	17	19	813	...						892 ... 48		
13. Wood and Coal Yards	97	106	...	1	3	5	3	1	1	29	...						43 ... 48		
14. Wood-turning, Bending, and Woodworking.....	7	4	...	1	2	...	1	3	7	34	...						48 ... 48		
15. Tool Handles	3	...	1	5	11	7	4	4	6	41	...						79 ... 48		
16. Tennis Racquets, &c.	2	1	6	12	11	15	10	10	12	56	...						132 3 48		
17. Wood-wool	8	6	2	...	2	6	4	...	4	22	3	...	1	1	2	1	40 7 48		
Total	334	254	12	27	42	55	40	49	53	1113	3	...	8	3	5	7	20 1391 48 ...		
SECTION 5.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.																			
18. Engineering and Motor-garages.....	103	73	3	2	12	21	29	28	31	287	...						413 ... 44-48		
19. Foundries	5	9	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	6	...						11 ... 48		
20. Railway and Tramway Shops	5	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	2	263	...						274 ... 44
21. Tinsmith and Plumbing.....	11	4	1	1	2	3	5	2	5	45	...						64 ... 44-48		
22. Other Metal Works	5	6	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	15	...						28 ... 44-48		
Total	129	92	5	7	16	27	41	37	41	616	...						790 ...		
SECTION 6.—Trades connected with Food and Drink.																			
23. Bacon-curing	5	4	...	...	...	1	...	11	...								12 ... 48
24. Butchers (Smallgoods)	98	71	...	5	2	5	6	12	4	101	...						135 ... 48		
25. Fish and Meat-preserving	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...								3 2 6 48
26. Biscuits	3	2	9	13	6	6	4	5	4	36	...	7	5	2	8	6	12 83 42 48		
27. Bakers, Cakes, Pastry, &c.	277	220	6	8	10	19	12	16	22	244	...	5	3	2	8	1	20 337 41 48		
28. Confectionery, &c.	2	...	3	9	8	...	4	3	1	99	5	16	15	6	3	4	127 102 44-48		
29. Flourmillers	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	71 ... 48
30. Jam-making, Fruit-pulping, and Fruit-preserving	8	...	5	...	46	28	34	29	11	450	...	2	13	20	31	20	603 147 48		
31. Fruit and Vegetable Drying	8	3	1	1	4	6	10	7	1	47	...	1	6	11	4	2	37 77 65 48		
32. Cider	1	...	...	...	3	3	...	2	...	33	...	1	2	...	1	2	41 6 48
33. Aerated Waters and Cordials	13	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	71	...	...	1	2	...	1	2 41 6 48
34. Breweries	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73 ... 48
35. Condiments	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	3 4 6 48
36. Ice and Refrigerating	9	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	46 2 48
37. Egg Pulp	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5 3	48
38. Pickles and Sauce.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1 4	48
39. Self-Raising Flour	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
40. Sausage Casing	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	48
41. Grain Crushing & Cleaning	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	48
Total.. ..	447	318	24	36	79	67	74	77	44	1234	5	29	34	35	47	47	36	193 1635 426 ...	

Tasmanian Factories in Analysed Sections.—continued.

Class of Factory.			Ages (Male Employees).										Ages (Female Employees).											
	No. of Factories.	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week			
SECTION 7.—Clothing and Textile Fabrics, &c.																								
42. Woollen Mills and Spinning, &c.....	6	3	9	17	38	32	27	18	34	353	15	57	70	91	66	70	75	499	528	943	45-48			
43. Boot-manufacturing	10	9	...	...	2	1	2	11	4	35	...	2	1	1	5	2	2	20	55	33	44	
44. Tailors	18	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	40	...	...	1	3	2	1	67	42	74	44	
45. Dresses and Millinery	17	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	14	5	8	7	9	50	1	98	45	
46. Knitted Goods, &c.	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	7	7	1	3	7	5	4	3	14	12	44	45
47. Shirts and Clothing	7	3	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	22	2	20	17	19	14	15	18	74	28	179	45
48. Tents, Tarpaulins, &c.	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Total	62	37	9	17	40	36	30	33	43	464	29	80	105	124	101	100	108	724	672	1371	...			
SECTION 8.—Books, Printing, &c.																								
49. Printing	22	26	1	7	19	9	20	13	11	310	...	3	5	7	6	11	10	53	390	95	42-48			
SECTION 9.—Vehicles, Saddlery.																								
50. Coaches and Waggon and Motor Bodies	22	23	...	4	5	5	6	3	5	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	...	48
51. Cycles and Motors	8	9	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	48
52. Saddlery	5	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	1	48
Total	35	34	...	4	6	7	9	5	6	77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	114	1	...
SECTION 10.—Shipbuilding.																								
53. Ship and Boat Building	5	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	44
SECTION 11.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.																								
54. Bedding and Flocks	4	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	1	48
55. Furniture	49	40	...	8	11	8	17	15	17	107	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	15	183	20	48	
Total	53	42	...	9	12	9	17	16	17	113	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	16	193	21	...	
SECTION 12.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.																								
56. Chemicals	4	3	...	2	1	2	...	2	1	10	...	...	2	3	2	...	3	18	10	47-48		
57. Fertilisers	7	3	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	48
Total	11	6	...	3	3	2	...	3	1	35	...	...	2	3	2	...	3	47	10	...		
SECTION 13.—Timepieces, Jewellery, &c.																								
58. Jewellery	3	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	44-48
SECTION 14.—Heat, Light, and Power.																								
59. Electric Light and Power ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	48
60. Gas Manufacture.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	...	44-48
Total	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	133	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139	...	...	
SECTION 15.—(not elsewhere included).																								
61. Brooms, Brushware, &c	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	48
62. Laundry (Chines)	10	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63. " (Europear)	3	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	7	3	...	1	3	1	1	1	14	3	21	44-48
64. Dyer and Cleaner	5	3	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	30	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	11	4	48
65. Rubber Works	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	48	
66. Produce.....	5	3	...	...	1	1	2	2	1	34	...	...	1	3	1	4	6	3	35	...	48
67. Painting	4	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	44	
68. Tyre Vulcanizing	9	2	1	...	1	1	2	2	1	13	...	...	1	3	1	4	6					

WAGES BOARDS ACT.

Amendment of Legislation.—The Principal Act was amended during the last Session of Parliament by repealing Section 23 (inserted by the Wages Boards Act, 1928) and substituting a new section therefor. The amendment provides that a Wages Board, in any determination made by it, may determine that the wages and piecework rates fixed by such determination, or any of such rates, shall be automatically adjusted, at quarterly or such other periods as the Board in the determination shall direct, to accord as nearly as practicable, and in such manner as it shall so direct, with the variation from time to time of the cost of living as indicated by such retail price index-numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician, as the Board in its determination may direct. This amendment was necessary in view of the adoption by the Full Court of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court of a new method of adjustment of the basic rate of wages.

Wages Boards.—Fifty-three wages boards were existent at the 31st December, 1933. A new determination was made by each of the following Boards during the year:—

Designation of Board.	Date Determination Came Into Operation.
Butchers	10.4.33
City Councils	14.2.33
Hairdressers	13.10.33
Marine Boards	21.12.33
Produce	7.4.33
Shipping	1.1.34
Timber Merchants	15.9.33
Wharves, Piers, and Jetties	1.9.33

Extension of Powers of Timber Merchants' Wages Board.—The powers of this Board were extended to include persons employed in the manufacture of axe and/or other tool handles.

Licences Granted to Aged, Slow, or Infirm Workers.—Fourteen licences were issued under this heading in accordance with Section 27 of the Act.

Apprentices.—Six licences were issued to apprentices who were unable to complete their term of apprenticeship before attaining the age of 21 years.

Agreements.—Five agreements were entered into between employers and employees as to rates of wages and terms and conditions of employment under Section 55 of the Act.

Improvers' Licences.—Ten licences were issued under this heading.

Arrears of Wages.—Arrears of wages secured by the Department to employees during the year amounted to £659 14s. 1d. The services rendered by the Department in this regard are availed of to a very considerable extent, officers being required to devote much of their time to the investigation and settlement of claims made by employees.

Offences.—Nine prosecutions were instituted for various breaches of this law. Convictions were recorded in seven cases, penalties amounting to £30 7s. 6d.

SHOPS ACT.

Legislation.—Much adverse criticism has been levelled against certain provisions of the Shops

Act, which, it is alleged by various trade interests, are responsible for unfair competition among shopkeepers. Without going into detail, I do think the law needs amending to remove obvious anomalies and to make its provisions more workable and satisfactory to those persons affected by the legislation.

Small Shops.—Small shops to the number of 738 were registered during the year, a decrease of 35 in comparison with the previous year. Fees amounting to £360 9s. 6d. were received on account of these registrations.

Small Shop Assistants.—Two hundred and twenty-four licences were issued to assistants in small shops. The sum of £54 12s. 6d. was received in fees under this heading.

Tobacco Licences.—The number of licences issued to persons to sell tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes totalled 1705. An amount of £821 2s. was received in respect of such licences.

Newsvendors' Licences.—Seventy-seven licences were issued to persons to sell newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and stamps. Fees amounting to £38 10s. were received from this source.

Offences.—Legal proceedings were instituted against a shopkeeper for a breach of Section 16 (3) of the Act. A fine of £1 2s. 6d. was imposed upon the defendant.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

This law was amended during the last Session of Parliament. The most important provisions thereof provide for—(a) Payment by the employer of all reasonable hospital expenses, medical charges, and charges for medicines and appliances, not exceeding in all the sum of £25; and (b) Compulsory insurance by an employer for the full amount of his liability to pay compensation under the Principal Act to any worker or workers. The action of the legislature in placing the provisions of this law on a more satisfactory footing calls for favourable comment.

Advantage was taken of the provisions of Section 31 of the Principal Act to negotiate with employers for the settlement of claims for compensation made on behalf of various employees. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings to enforce the settlement of any of these claims.

CONCLUSION.

In carrying out the work to which reference is made in this Report and the various duties entrusted to me, I received the fullest possible help and support from officers of the Department, who showed a real devotion to the important duties they are required to perform. I also desire to express grateful recognition and thanks to officers of the Crown Law, Public Works, Police, and other Departments for valued co-operation and advice.

I have, &c.,

E. J. TUDOR,

Secretary for Public Health and
Chief Inspector of Factories.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 19th February, 1934.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department during the year ended 31st December, 1933.

Staff.

The staff consists of the following officers:—Chief Inspector J. Riley, M.R.S.I., and Inspector H. H. Parker, A.R.S.I., stationed at Hobart; and Inspector D. S. Clark, Cert.R.S.I., and Inspector T. Orr, Cert.R.S.I., stationed at Launceston.

Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

The following municipal districts throughout the State were visited during the year:—Beaconsfield, Bothwell, Brighton, Burnie, Campbell Town, Circular Head, Clarence, Deloraine, Devonport, Esperance, Evandale, Fingal, Flinders, George Town, Glamorgan, Glenorchy, Gormanton, Green Ponds, Hamilton, Hobart, Huon, Kentish, Kingborough, Latrobe, Launceston, Leven, Lilydale, Longford, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Penguin, Port Cygnet, Portland, Queenstown, Richmond, Ringarooma, Ross, St. Leonards, Scottsdale, Sorell, Spring Bay, Strahan, Table Cape, Tasmania, Westbury.

Routine sanitary surveys and follow-up inspections were carried out in the principal towns and centres of population of each municipality.

Special inspections, at the request of local authorities, were also undertaken in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, drainage problems, water supplies, pollution of streams, offensive trades, public buildings, places of public entertainment, installation of bacteriolytic tanks, garbage depots, and small fruit orchards.

Details of inspections made in the course of sanitary surveys and general and special inspections under the Public Health Act and kindred laws administered by the Department are set out as follows:—

Butchers' shops and other food premises	476
Places of public entertainment and public buildings, including plans of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings	308
Shops, boarding-houses, and private dwelling-houses	153
Schools (public and private)	147
Abattoirs and slaughter-houses (private)	138
Hotels and licensed premises	128
Factories and Wages Boards Acts	125
Bakeries	109
Bacteriolytic tanks, sites, and plans	105
Dairying premises	79
Drainage disposal, installation and defects	77
Offensive trades	63
Picture theatres (for overcrowding)	54
Small fruit orchards and hop-picking grounds	51
Racecourses, showgrounds, &c.	42
Sanitary depots and services	38
Miscellaneous	36
Hospitals (public and private)	36
Piggeries	35
Infectious diseases, outbreaks of	28
Garbage depots and services	27
Cemeteries and burial grounds	22
Water supplies	13
Weighing of bread	13
Cattle saleyards	13
Ventilation of, and extraction of dust from, wood-turning factories	11
Sewage disposal in rivers and streams	10
Wharves, jetties, and river frontages (not under the control of local authorities)	8
Insanitary buildings and condemned dwellings	7
Food seizures under Food and Drugs Act	5
Total	2,357

Installation of Bacteriolytic Tanks.

Numerous bacteriolytic tanks have been installed in unsewered areas at hotels, guest-houses, boarding-houses, &c., on recognised tourist routes throughout the State.

Food and Drugs.

Two hundred and twenty-nine samples of foods and drugs were forwarded to the Government Analyst. Twenty-two (approximately 10 per cent.) were found to be adulterated. Prosecutions were undertaken in 12 cases, and fines amounting to £39 14s. 6d. were inflicted. Three warnings were issued, and prosecutions are pending in seven cases.

A complete list of the samples taken is shown hereunder:—

Breakfast foods	5
Butter	34
Cocoa	5
Coffee and chicory	3
Cornflour	3
Cream	18
Custard powder	3
Disinfectants	2
Essences	9
Honey	4
Meat and fish pastes	18
Milk	42
Miscellaneous	15
Oils	4
Pepper	6
Sausage	26
Spirits	14
Vinegar	10
Water	8
Total	229

Meat Inspection Demonstrations.

The series of meat inspection lectures and demonstrations arranged by the Department were continued in January, February, March, and April, and were again well attended by inspectors from various municipalities throughout the State.

Testing and Sampling of Spirits.

During the latter part of the year officers were engaged in testing spirits in various hotels throughout the southern districts. Approximately 300 samples of spirits were tested, and, as a result of this work, legal proceedings were instituted in a number of cases.

Places of Public Entertainment.

During the year an amended regulation came into force regarding the space between seats at picture theatres and other places of public entertainment. This necessitated numerous inspections to enforce compliance with the regulation.

In order to ascertain if the regulations regarding overcrowding were being observed, a considerable number of inspections were carried out at evening performances and Saturday afternoon matinees.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Health Inspector.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

Bacteriological Laboratory,
Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 2nd April, 1934.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed at the Department's laboratory during the year ended the 31st December, 1933.

The total number of specimens forwarded from all parts of the State was 10,579.

A tabulated statement of the specimens examined during the year will be found on page 18.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE HADDOW,
Government Bacteriologist.

The Secretary for Public Health.

Specimen.

Nature of Specimen.	No. of Specimens.	No. Positive.
Swabs for diphtheria bacillus	8,363	564
Sputum for tubercular bacillus	1,299	406
Urine for tubercular bacillus	31	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for tubercular bacillus	2	—
Smears for tubercular bacillus	10	—
Fæces for tubercular bacillus	8	1
Pleuræ fluid for tubercular bacillus	4	—
Milk for tubercular bacillus	1	—
Blood for Widal's test	84	12
Fæces for typhoid bacillus	18	—
Urine for typhoid bacillus	9	—
Water for typhoid bacillus	1	—
Milk for typhoid bacillus	1	—
Smears for gonococcus	562	58
Eye smears for gonococcus	14	2
Urine for gonococcus	3	—
Urine for pus, blood, casts, &c.	62	—
Urine for bacillus <i>coli communis</i>	54	—
Fæces for occult blood	3	—
Swab for meningococcus	1	—
Discharge for spermatozoa	1	—
Culture for organisms	8	—
Blood cultures	3	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for tetanus bacillus	1	—
Fæces for parasites	1	—
Smears for Vincent's angina	3	—
Water for bacillus <i>coli communis</i>	4	—
Smear for spermatozoa	1	—
Fæces for amoeba	6	—
Blood for malaria	2	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for organisms, &c.	1	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for pneumococcus	1	—

Specimen—continued.

Nature of Specimen.	No. of Specimens.	No. Positive.
Tissue for streptothrix	—	1
Drugs for sterility	—	4
Discharge for hydatids	—	1
Sputum for hydatids	—	4
Blood for normoblasts	—	1
Carbolic co-efficient	—	1
Pathological	—	2
Vaccines	—	3
Total	10,579	1,043

APPENDIX III.

Child Welfare Association,
Hobart, 9th March, 1934.

SIR,

DURING the year nine student nurses from the Mothercraft Home have attended the clinic, in their turn, for two weeks. Seven classes of girls from the State schools have attended the clinics for a course in mothercraft and infant hygiene. A class of girl guides has also attended. One hundred and forty letters seeking advice have been received from country mothers, and 224 leaflets have been posted to mothers of new babies living beyond our visiting area. Milk has been supplied to 73 mothers in necessitous circumstances. Creches at the Hobart Show and Regatta ground were conducted as in previous years.

The following is a summary of the work performed by the nurses during the year ended the 31st December, 1933:

SUMMARY of the Work of the Nurses.

Centre.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending.	Total Attendances by Babies.	Total Expectant Mothers Attending.
Hobart Centre	349	3051	89	721	6868	121
North Hobart Centre	287	1545	57	375	3448	57
Moonah Centre	156	1296	65	360	3463	95
Glenorchy Centre	34	261	4	60	370	—
Geeveston* ...	—	19	—	25	139	—
Total	826	6172	215	1541	14,288	273

* The Geeveston Clinic, which was established in July, in response to a request from the residents, is open every second Thursday from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

I have, &c.,

C. BONNILY, Sister-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

Baby Health Association,
Launceston, 9th March, 1934.

SIR,

THE following figures show our numbers for the year 1933:

Number of attendances at the Launceston Clinic 9,476
Number of attendances at the Invermay Clinic 1,147
Number of attendances at the Newstead Clinic 1,150

Total attendances at clinics 11,773

Number of new babies at the Launceston Clinic 420
Number of new babies at the Invermay Clinic 65
Number of new babies at the Newstead Clinic 45

Total new babies at Clinics 530

Number of visits paid to homes by sisters 2,782
Number of new babies visited in homes 659
Number of expectant mothers visited in homes 84

New Babies.

There were 530 new babies, and 461 were wholly or partially breast-fed and 69 were artificially fed when first brought to the clinics; 323 were normal healthy babies, 39 were premature, and the rest consisted of babies who were under-nourished, or suffering from over-feeding, indigestion, and other minor upsets.

Expectant Mothers.

There have been 180 visits from expectant mothers to the clinics during 1933, and 84 have been visited in their own homes.

Letters.

One hundred and sixty-eight letters (with literature enclosed) have been written to mothers who have sought our advice *re* the feeding and care of their babies, and letters have been received from many parts of the State. An article dealing with child welfare has been published for us each week in the "Weekly Courier."

Literature.

Pamphlets dealing with the feeding of babies and older children, the prevention of infantile diarrhoea, suggestions for expectant mothers, &c., have been freely distributed. "The Expectant Mother and Baby's First Month," "The

"Feeding and Care of the Baby," and patterns for baby clothes have been sold when required.

Mothercraft.

Lectures and examinations have been given to school-girls from the following colleges and State schools:— Methodist Ladies' College, Broadland House, Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Wellington Square State School, Glen Dhu, Invermay, Charles Street and East Launceston. These lectures include instruction in the feeding and care of baby, the bathing and clothing of baby, and infant hygiene, and should be of the greatest possible value to the students, as a preparation for the duties of motherhood. Lectures have also been given to Girl Guides and Mothers' Unions during the year.

I have, &c.

O. M. GREEN, Sister-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

Hobart, 15th March, 1934.

Return of Samples of Foodstuffs Examined in the Government Laboratory in 1933.

Baking powder and self-raising flour	4
Beer and cordials	40
Butter	245
Cereals	5
Cheese	1
Confectionery, honey, &c.	10
Cream and condensed milk	27
Drugs and chemicals	43
Essences	25
Fish in tins	3
Fruit	6
Milk (cows')	303
Milk (human)	33
Oils and fats	18
Poisons, various substances tested for	55
Sauces and condiments	10
Sausages and preserved meat	40
Spirits and wines	61
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	37
Vinegar and vinegar essence	10
Water	31
Sundries	9
Total	1,016

Butter.

Twenty samples intended for export were found to contain over 16 per cent. of water, and three contained boric acid. Five samples for home consumption contained excess water up to 16 per cent. of the maximum.

Celery.

Two samples from Adelaide had on them copper compounds in plainly visible quantities.

Coffee and Chicory.

A number of samples were examined in May and June. One sample was found to contain 55.2 per cent. chicory. The vendor's portion was also submitted for analysis and contained 52.5 per cent. chicory. In spite of these results the magistrate would not convict.

Essence of Lemon.

One was deficient in essential oil of lemon, and two were not properly labelled. Two samples of terpeneless essence were of doubtful quality.

Milk.

Twenty-nine samples were deficient, of which 11 were deficient in fat, one to the extent of 52.7 per cent. of the minimum; 12 showed only slight deficiencies; and 6 were definitely adulterated with water, one containing 63 per cent., one 33 per cent., and the remaining four from 7 to 13 per cent. of water. The deficient samples represented 9.5 per cent. of the total, being a slight increase in proportion compared with the previous year.

Cream and Ice Cream.

One cream was deficient to the extent of 12 per cent., and one was slightly so, while one contained excess boric acid. One ice-cream was 38 per cent. deficient in milk fat.

Pulvex Vermin Powder.

This was reported to have killed several canaries. It contains derris root, which is said to be "more or less non-poisonous to human beings." It should evidently be used with caution on small birds.

Sausages.

Five samples containing an excess of starch in three cases to the extent of 74.5 per cent., 53.3 per cent., and 18.3 per cent. In several other cases there was a considerable improvement in the amount of protein present compared with samples of previous years.

Water.

Three samples in connection with proposed sites for military camps were found to be unsuitable, and the sites were abandoned in consequence. One from Fingal was unfit for drinking. One from Sheffield, in connection with a proposed swimming bath, was found to be satisfactory.

Spirits.

Eight were found to be deficient in proof spirit.

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX V.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 18th April, 1934.

SIR,

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

WE have the honour to present the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1933.

Personnel of Board.

The personnel of the Board is as follows:—

Government Medical Officer (Chairman).
Surgeon Superintendent, Hobart Public Hospital.
Medical Superintendent, Launceston Public Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler.
Misses G. H. Lade, C. E. Rout, and A. M. Hall.

Meetings of Board.

The Board held four meetings during the year for the transaction of its business. A sub-committee of the Board met on a like number of occasions for the purpose of approving of applications submitted by candidates for examination.

Training Schools.

The Ulverstone Public Hospital was recognised as a training school for general nurses.

Pupil Nurses.

Pupil nurses to the number of 284 (251 general and 33 midwifery) were in training during the year. Thirty-five of these trainees resigned for various reasons.

Examinations.

The Board conducted four examinations for registration as general and midwifery nurses—two at Hobart and two at Launceston. Forty-six persons presented themselves for examination in general nursing. Of these, 40 passed the necessary examination and six failed. In the midwifery section 38 persons presented themselves for examination. Thirty-seven passed, and one failed.

Educational examinations for intending trainees were arranged on four occasions. Twenty-three applications were received for these examinations, and of these candidates four passed and 19 failed.

Applications for Registration.

General Nurses—

Number of applications	54
Number accepted	54

Midwifery Nurses—

Number of applications	42
Number accepted	42

Applications for Renewal of Registration.

General nurses	243
Midwifery nurses	290

Inspections.

The Supervisory Nurse attached to the Department of Public Health carried out 327 inspections in connection with the practice of midwifery nurses.

Amendment of Regulation.

Regulation No. 14 (2) was amended in the following directions:—(1) By substituting “four years” for “three years” in the first line of Paragraph I. (a); and (2) By rescinding Paragraph I. (b). The regulation, as amended, now provides that the period of training in training schools for general nurses shall be at least four years in a hospital having a daily average of not less than 40 occupied medical and surgical beds for both sexes, and at least five years in a hospital having a daily average of not less than 10 occupied medical and surgical beds for both sexes.

We have, &c.,

W. INGLIS CLARK, Chairman.
E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX VI.*Summary of Legal Proceedings for Breaches of Various Laws Administered by the Department.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions Undertaken.	Fines and Costs.
Public Health Act—		
Feeding of pigs on raw offal	1	£ 5 1 6
Failure to notify case of infectious disease	1	1 0 0
Hospitals Act—		
Accommodation of patients in excess of number prescribed by licence	1	10 0 0
Places of Public Entertainment Act—		
Obstruction of gangways	4	14 11 6
Non-compliance with order regarding seating accommodation	1	10 15 6
Screening of unregistered film	1	0 6 6
Food and Drugs Act—		
Adulterated foods	12	39 14 6
Shops Act—		
Non-observance of closing hour	1	1 2 6
Factories Act—		
Breach of Section 31	1	2 7 0
Wages Boards Act—		
Non-payment of rates fixed by wages boards, and miscellaneous offences	9	30 7 6
	32	£115 6 6

APPENDIX VII.**VITAL STATISTICS.***Statistical and General.***Population:**

Estimated on the 31st December, 1933—

Males	116,935
Females	115,181
Total	232,116

Mean population 1933 (for whole year)—

Males	115,377
Females	113,063
Total	228,440

Mean population 1932 (for the whole year)

227,092

Increase for the year

1,348

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 1348.

Commonwealth Birth-rate for the Year 1933 Per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1932.	1933.
New South Wales	25.67	17.74	16.98
Victoria	23.10	15.21	15.59
Queensland	25.59	17.89	—
South Australia	23.71	14.54	15.32
West Australia	23.94	18.85	19.93
Tasmania	27.08	20.25	20.25
Northern Territory	19.16	17.51	n
Federal Capital Territory	11.37	17.30	n
Commonwealth	24.69	16.94	—

n Not available.

Death Rates for 1933 Per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with the previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1932.	1933.
New South Wales	8.92	8.44	8.58
Victoria	9.65	9.30	9.59
Queensland	9.16	8.05	—
South Australia	9.11	8.46	8.44
West Australia	9.32	8.79	—
Tasmania	9.30	9.12	9.60
Northern Territory	16.42	16.18	—
Federal Capital Territory	2.13	3.32	—
Commonwealth	9.22	8.66	—

n Not available.

Deaths in Relation to Disease.

The following return, from data supplied by the Government Statistician, shows the number and causes of deaths during the year 1933, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 228,440), as contrasted with the previous year, 1932 (mean population estimated at 227,092).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1933.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1932.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	4	.2	2	.1
Malaria	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	3	.1
Scarlet Fever	4	.2	5	.2
Whooping Cough	7	.3	7	.3
Diphtheria and Croup	16	.7	17	.7
Influenza	23	1.0	7	.3
Dysentery	...	...	1	...
Syphilis	5	.2	3	.1
Tubercular Diseases	127	5.6	132	5.8
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	9	.4	7	.3
Cancer, all forms	250	10.9	230	10.2
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning	...	...	...	...
Other General Diseases	88	3.8	110	4.9
Total General	533	23.3	524	23.0
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System	185	8.1	159	7.0
Diseases of Circulatory System	591	25.9	540	23.8
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	235	10.3	208	9.2
Diseases of Digestive Organs	136	6.0	114	5.0
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	110	4.8	117	5.2
Diseases of Puerperal Origin	22	1.0	26	1.1
Diseases of the Skin	3	.1	7	.3
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	42	1.8	25	1.1
Diseases of Early Infancy	106	4.6	109	4.8
Total Local Diseases	1430	62.6	1305	57.5
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	112	4.9	87	3.9
Homicide	2	.1	4	.2
Suicide	18	.8	17	.7
Total External Causes	132	5.8	108	4.8
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	78	3.4	78	3.4
Ill-defined Diseases	19	.9	7	.3
Total Ill-defined Diseases	97	4.3	85	3.7
Total Deaths, All Causes	2192	96.0	2022	89.0

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

RETURN Showing the Number of Deaths from Typhoid during the last Ten Years under Age Groups.

Typhoid Fever.

Year 1933.

Number of cases notified

Number of deaths, year 1933 (calendar)—

Males

Females

37 Number of cases notified

Number of deaths, year 1933 (calendar)—

706

Males

10

Females

6

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.	Year	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1921	598	6	.3	2.80	10.0	1.0	1921	2055	61	2.9	9.63	30.2	3.0
1922	981	7	.3	4.55	7.1	0.7	1922	1616	58	2.7	7.50	35.9	3.6
1923	604	3	.1	2.79	5.0	0.5	1923	870	32	1.5	4.02	36.8	3.7
1924	376	3	.1	1.74	8.0	0.8	1924	597	20	.9	2.76	33.5	3.4
1925	288	3	.1	1.34	10.4	1.0	1925	473	13	.6	2.19	27.5	2.7
1926	188	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5	1926	347	6	.3	1.62	17.1	1.7
1927	91	2	.1	.43	22.0	2.2	1927	507	10	.5	2.38	19.7	2.0
1928	190	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5	1928	908	18	.8	4.21	19.8	2.0
1929	314	2	.1	1.44	6.4	0.6	1929	488	18	.8	2.24	36.9	3.7
1930	485	8	.4	2.20	16.5	1.6	1930	573	20	.9	2.59	34.9	3.5
1931	265	—	—	1.18	—	—	1931	589	19	.8	2.62	32.3	3.2
1932	417	5	.2	1.84	12.0	1.2	1932	455	17	.8	1.96	37.4	3.7
1933	370	4	.2	1.61	10.9	1.1	1933	706	16	.7	3.14	22.3	2.2

Diphtheria.

Year 1933.

37 Number of cases notified

Number of deaths, year 1933 (calendar)—

706

Males

10

Females

6

